GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3519
ANSWERED ON:19.08.2003
DEVELOPMENT OF MEDICINES FOR POOR PEOPLE
JAGMEET SINGH BRAR

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

e:

(a) whether the Drug companies are not developing any medicines for ailments inflicting poor people in India;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have asked any PSU or voluntary organisation to take a lead in this regard;

(d) if so, details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. CHHATTRA PAL SINGH)

(a)to(e): There are no diseases exclusive to poor. The diseases associated with poor hygienic conditions and malnutrition, such as, TB, gastroentritis/cholera, malaria, Kala-azar, etc. may be categorised as diseases, which are prevalent more in the poor people than other sections of society.

Indian drug companies have been carrying out research programmes for development of processes for manufacture of a number of drugs required for these diseases, as well as development of new molecules of pharmaceutical value, for treatment of such diseases.

The Department of Science and Technology (DST) is operating aPlan Scheme entitled ` Drugs and pharmaceuticals Research Programme (DPRP)` since 1994-95.The programme has so far supported 38 industry − institutional collaborative R&D projects related to development/standardization of herbal drugs to treat several diseases such as diarrhoea, pancreatitis, gastritis, ischaemic heart diseases, cancer, eye diseases, diabetes, vitiligo, psoriasis, rheumatism, ulcer, thyroid, obesitry etc., development of vaccines, diagnostic kits, synthesis of new chemical entities, drug delivery system. Apart from this, the programme has also funded 7 national facilities in the area of pharma sector at public funded institutions.